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See p. 5

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shosh

black hebrews' plight reviewed

ta28

jerusalem domestic service in hebrew 1505

((from the weekly newsreel))

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
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((text)) the story of the black hebrews in dinona took a turn 5 months

ago when a ~~xx~~ government committee headed by mk david glass recommended that ~~xx~~

they should be granted a legal status in israel and ~~receive~~ receive assistance in

establishing ~~their own~~ a settlement of their own in the 'arava. at the time,

the black hebrews' leader, ben-ami carter, stated:

((begin recording)) ((carter)) after all these difficult years we

certainly regard this as the light at the end of the tunnel leading to life

(?in the land of) our forefathers abraham, isaac and jacob. ((end recording))

this is yig'al rom and the weekly follow-up story returning to the theme

of the black hebrews. the recommendations issued by the glass committee 5 months

ago remain worthless. whoever postponed the handling and the solution of the

black hebrews for 10 years has again delayed it now. it is a continuing

follow-up—as mk david glass phrased it—a follow-up that began then and is

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

- 2 -

continuing to this very day.

((begin recording)) ((glass)) i think that any postponement nowadays constitutes a continuous foul-up. i think that ~~raising~~ raising again the subject in diverse forums is mere patchwork. i caution against the dangers inherent in such a situation. ((end recording))

when the report was issued 5 months ago the committee's chairman submitted * it to interior minister dr yosef burg.

((begin recording)) ((glass)) after he heard the gist of the recommendations and even before examining it, from me and the other members of the committee, the minister promised ~~in~~ that the report would be submitted to the cabinet for its ~~perusal~~ perusal in its coming session. also later the minister's spokesman told me that, in principle, dr burg regards the recommendations as acceptable and he would submit them in that spirit to ~~for~~ the cabinet's decision. to the best of my knowledge, nothing has been done since then to this very day. ((end recording))

the interior ministry says that the issue is being examined, handled and discussed by senior ministers. there are two alternatives for the solution of this problem; they existed then and were extensively discussed by the glass committee and they * exist today as well; either let the group remain in israel

DECLASSIFIED

- 4 -

be ready to
in the last few days—that they would/under take all the restrictions and conditions
imposed by the interior ministry just so that they are permitted to stay.

((begin recording)) ((ben-'ami carter)) we will adhere to all the conditions
we agreed upon. we agreed ~~not to allow our comrades to immigrate illegally~~
~~to israel illegally and join us here.~~ not any longer to allow our ~~comrades~~ comrades to immigrate
to israel illegally and join us here. we will stand up to this agreement.
anything included in the agreement we will fulfill. ((end recording))

however, the interior ministry has not done anything except, as said,
examining, handling and discussing it in consultations with senior ministers.
therefore, the mayor of dimona, mk jack amir, took the initiative.

((begin recording)) ((amir)) i expected—not only i as the mayor but the
inhabitants of dimona as well, particularly those living in the nitzahon quarter
where the black hebrews reside—and i am very disappointed. ((end recording))

jack amir discussed the issue with absorption minister david levi and
was authorized to house the black hebrews in an abandoned absorption center in
dimona.

((begin recording)) ((amir)) after i received permission from the
housing ministry, we ~~in our capacity as a municipality~~ assumed the duties ~~xx~~

DECLASSIFIED

- 5 -

of the interior ministry and conducted a census among all the members of the sect, each and every family.

((yig'al rom)) only in dimona?

((amir)) only in dimona. i do not want to go into the affairs of other cities. we conducted a census asking for their previous names, current names, age, children, daughters, wives and so forth—each and every family. until 2
days ago we counted 692 persons.

((yig'al rom)) did they cooperate with you?

((amir)) they cooperated with us. i am happy that the sect's leadership confide in me. thus i was able to get their cooperation. ((and recording))

the situation in dimona has proven that doing nothing on the issue of the black hebrews is analogous to sitting on a powder keg holding a cigar.

((begin recording)) ((glass)) indeed, i think that if the issue is not decided upon by the cabinet in a few days i will take parliamentary initiative.

((~~ing~~ end recording))

when i asked mr glass again: so, ~~why~~ in fact, why is a decision not made?

his answer was: the interior minister should be asked. as may be recalled, the

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

- 6 -

interior minister replied: the issue is being examined and taken care of.

the black hebrews are longing for a solution, the inhabitants of dimona are longing for a solution but the wheels of bureaucracy spin slowly.

((begin recording)) ((amir)) let me put it in one sentence: our patience and tolerance during 10 years ~~is~~ are coming to an end. we are conceding another year as a testing period. otherwise, we will ~~raise our voices~~ raise our voices ~~in~~ to unprecedented tones; we will activate the government institutions so that they make their decision once and for all: are the black hebrews israeli citizens enjoying all their rights and obligations as such or, otherwise, they should be extradited from the boundaries of our country. ((end recording))

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